

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

March 14, 2001
City Council Chambers
City of La Quinta
78-495 Calle Tampico
La Quinta, CA 92253

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, was called to order by Chair Michael Smith at 10:00 a.m. on March 14, 2001, in the City Council Chambers, City of La Quinta, California.

1. Roll Call

The following Board Members were present: Mary Ann E. Martin Andreas, Dr. Dan Baxley, Gary Johnson, Leon M. Lesicka, Michael A Smith, Brenda Soulliere, and Nancy S. Wright

2. Staff Present

Jeff Allred, Sheila Ault, John Carmona, Jose Cortez, Jose Figueroa-Acevedo, Phil Gruenberg, Janina Guarino, Chris Igbinedion, David Martin, Daniel McClure, Robert Perdue, Judy Reed, Jonathan Rokke, Charles Springer, Kristie Taylor, Hilda Vasquez, Jason Voskanian, David Virginia, and Susan Wilson

3. Others Present

Steve Bigley, Coachella Valley Water District
Darrell Gardner, Imperial County Planning and Building Department
Randy Hines, City of El Centro
William Kagele, Naval Air Facility El Centro
Mike Lopanec, Valley Sanitary District
Doug Mitchell, Centinela State Prison
Karen O'Haire, State Water Resources Control Board, OCC
Jim Rodkey, City of Blythe
Rex Sharp, Valley Sanitary District
Jennie Snyder, Imperial County Farm Bureau
Scot Stormo, Earth Systems

4. Minutes of Meeting of November 8, 2000

MOTION: Mr. Johnson moved, Ms. Andreas seconded, and motion carried unanimously that the minutes be approved as submitted.

5. Resolution No. 01-007, Expressing Appreciation to Elvera Codekas

MOTION: Ms. Wright moved, Ms. Andreas seconded, and motion carried unanimously that the resolution be approved.

6. Resolution No. 01-008, Expressing Appreciation to Don Cox

MOTION: Ms. Andreas moved, Ms. Wright seconded, and motion carried unanimously that the resolution be approved.

7. Uncontested Waste Discharge Requirements

NPDES Permits

01-001	United States Navy – Navy Region Southwest, Owner, Brown and Root Services Corporation, Operator, U.S. Naval Air Facility, Wastewater Treatment Plant – West of El Centro, Imperial County
01-002	City of Holtville, Owner/Operator, Wastewater Treatment Plant – Holtville, Imperial County
01-800	Confined Animal Feeding Operations

Waste Discharge Requirements

01-004	Valley Sanitary District, Owner/Operator, Irrigation of Pasturelands and Fields Indio, Riverside County
01-006	Mitsubishi Cement Corporation, Owner/Operator, Mitsubishi Cement Corporation, Cushenbury Plant, Industrial Wastewater Disposal Facility – Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County
01-014	City of Needles, Owner/Operator, Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant – Needles, San Bernardino County
01-010	Change of Ownership and/or Name
91-017	Spreckels Sugar Company - Imperial County
93-043	Sante Fe Pacific Corporation Mesquite Mine - Imperial County
95-054	Spreckels Sugar Company - Imperial County
96-052	Wheelaborator Water Technologies, Inc. Whitewater Hydrologic Unit - Riverside County
97-017	Wheelaborator Water Technologies, Inc. Colorado Hydrologic Unit - Riverside County
97-104	Wheelaborator Water Technologies, Inc. Chuckwalla Hydrologic Unit - Riverside County
01-011	Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements
83-041	Palm Springs Cemetery District Cathedral City - Riverside County
86-053	Cathedral City Land Improvement Cathedral City - Riverside County
94-129	I.V. Tomato Grading Station Northwest of Westmorland - Imperial County
97-009	Coachella Solid Waste Transfer/Recycling Station

MOTION: Ms. Wright moved, Ms. Andreas seconded, and motioned carried unanimously that Orders No. 01-001, 01-002, 01-004, 01-006, 01-010, 01-011, 01-014, and 01-800, including the errata, be adopted.

8. Public Comments

- Jim Rodkey, Public Works Director – City of Blythe, discussed concerns and requested clarification on Regional Board regulation of Confined Animal Feeding Operations and relevancy to open range and pasture grazing practices. Sheila Ault replied that open range and pasture grazing are presently unregulated by the Regional Board.
- Steve Bigley, Coachella Valley Water District, expressed his concern that the toxicity language in Orders written by Regional Board Staff may be misleading and needs to be revised.

9. Compliance with Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 97-145, Meaders Cleaners

Robert Perdue reported on progress toward cleanup of the site.

10. Reportable Violations of the California Water Code

Phil Gruenberg discussed prominent noncompliance issues with several dischargers, including the City of Brawley, Centinela State Prison, and City of Coachella, and the anticipated staff response. He further mentioned that the RWQCB is seeking guidance from the SWRCB on alternative penalties, such as compliance projects, for noncompliance at several treatment facilities serving populations below 10,000. He added that Heber Public Utility District is now under a Time Schedule Order due to flow related violations but that ACLC action is not being considered at this time, since no adverse impact to beneficial uses is occurring. He closed by stating that three to four ACLCs are expected to be issued soon.

11. Informational Update on State Board Activities

Karen O'Haire reported the appointment of Richard Katz to the State Board as well as the expiration of the terms of John Brown and Mary Jane Forster of the State Board Executive Office.

12. Regional Board Executive Officer's Report

Phil Gruenberg reported that the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) has had sewage spills into both the Coachella Canal and the Whitewater River Storm Water Channel. CVWD was issued an administrative civil liability complaint in the amount of \$90,000 of which \$80,000 was suspended pending completion of compliance projects. CVWD has paid \$10,000 and waived a hearing on the matter.

He also reported that Niland Sanitary District was issued an administrative civil liability order in the amount of \$30,000 one year ago. It was decided that \$25,000 would be suspended if a Quality Assurance/ Quality Control (QA/QC) Program was satisfactorily completed. The Executive Officer has invited Bill Ray, Quality Assurance Manager at the State Board, to assess Niland Sanitary District's completion of the QA/QC Program, and give a report at the May Board Meeting.

13. Regional Board Staff Reports

- Robert Perdue reported on the positive progress at the Naval Air Facility, El Centro. The Chief of Naval Operations, for the second consecutive year, has awarded the Environmental Security Award in the Environmental Cleanup/Installation category to the Naval Air Facility, El Centro.
- Jose Angel gave an update on the sanitation project for Mexicali and the New River, which is divided into two projects: the Mexicali I Project and the Mexicali II Project. The Mexicali I Project consists of rehabilitation of the sewage structure. This project is now under way and has been given a four-year time frame. The Mexicali II Project consists of building a new wastewater treatment facility, which is expected to be completed within two years.

Mr. Angel reported the status of two TMDLs for tributaries to the Salton Sea. One is for the Alamo River to address silt, and the other is for the New River to address pathogens. Both TMDLs have been completed and peer reviewed. A workshop with stakeholders is planned to take place in late April 2001. The main stakeholders for the Alamo TMDL have requested that a workshop be held in Imperial Valley, which staff will accommodate. Regional Board staff will return to the Board with a proposal on both TMDLs to be considered for adoption at the May Board Meeting.

Mr. Angel reported that the wetlands project, headed by Desert Wildlife Unlimited, Inc., created to improve the quality of water in the New River, is underway and exceeding performance expectations.

Mr. Angel also reported that a request for proposals for the Proposition 13 Grant Program was released last year and proposals were received on February 1, 2001. Region 7 received several proposals for consideration of funding, which have been ranked and submitted to the State Board. There will be a workshop held in Palm Desert, as well as one in Imperial County, to provide the public the opportunity to speak.

14. Regional Board Chair's Report

Mr. Smith stated that he attended the Chairs' meeting held in Sacramento on February 8, 2001, where the beginning of the budget process was discussed. Mr. Smith indicated that Nancy Wright is our Region's Budget Liaison. Some of the other Regions have conducted off-site meetings. Mr. Smith stated that he does not see a need for Region 7 to conduct these meetings at this time.

The Chair also reported that the State Water Resources Control Board is in the process of updating the Strategic Plan.

15. Election of Chair/Vice-Chair

MOTION: Mr. Johnson nominated Michael Smith as Chair, Ms. Wright seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Michael Smith be re-elected as Chair.

MOTION: Dr. Baxley nominated Gary Johnson as Vice-Chair, Ms. Andreas seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Gary Johnson be re-elected as Vice-Chair.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.